

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. *(currently amended)* A latex reagent for analyzing adiponectin, comprising a suspension of latex particles carrying ~~a substance which specifically binds to adiponectin~~ an anti-adiponectin polyclonal antibody.
2. *(cancelled)*
3. *(currently amended)* A method for analyzing adiponectin, comprising the steps of:
 (1) obtaining a biological liquid possibly containing adiponectin, and
 (2) bringing the biological liquid, while maintaining the state in which the biological liquid is obtained, into contact with a suspension of latex particles carrying ~~a substance which specifically binds to adiponectin~~ an anti-adiponectin polyclonal antibody, and optically analyzing a degree of latex-particles-agglutination.
4. *(cancelled)*
5. *(new)* The latex reagent according to claim 1, wherein the latex particles do not carry an anti-adiponectin monoclonal antibody.
6. *(new)* The method according to claim 3, wherein the latex particles do not carry an anti-adiponectin monoclonal antibody.

7. (*new*) A method for analyzing the level of adiponectin in a biological liquid, comprising the steps of:

(1) obtaining a biological liquid possibly containing adiponectin; and

(2) bringing the biological liquid, without predilution or other pretreatment, into contact with a suspension of latex particles carrying an anti-adiponectin polyclonal antibody, and optically analyzing a degree of latex-particle-agglutination, wherein said degree of latex-particle agglutination correlates to the level of adiponectin in said liquid.